

V. REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Quest et al. (WO 00/74010) and further in view of Burckhardt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,596,711) and Murray (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,104) and further in view of Chan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,577,201). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Quest teaches a display system for an entertainment machine. A coin-operated entertainment machine has a digital display device and a monitoring device. Machine signals are monitored and an error indication is given if there are anomalous signals. A player of the machine is thereby made aware that a malfunction has occurred. An error indication is given if a predetermined value, such as a maximum jackpot award, is exceeded. Repeated machine signals are monitored and any indication is given if there is a departure from a norm indicating that the machine has malfunctioned.

Burckhardt teaches a computer failure recovery and alert system. A computer system includes a timer which times out if the operating system of the computer system does not periodically reset the timer. When the computer system fails and no longer resets the timer, the timer times out, and the computer system is reset. The computer system performs its power on program and checks the memory array for bad memory blocks, which are mapped out of the memory. Next, the computer system alerts the operator of the failure using a pager. The computer system then reboots itself from a hard drive having two separate bootable partitions, one for the operating system in the first partition and one for a diagnostics program in the second partition so that an operator may diagnose and remedy the problem. The operator may set an indication of which partition to use for booting. The system further provides for remote access so that the operator may interact with the diagnostics program from a remote location.

Murray discloses a method and system for integrating a message at a specified location within content which includes a graphical image for display on an electronic display. Transformation parameters programmed into the content and associated with the specified location of the graphical image are retrieved and the transformation parameters include a scale factor. The message in accordance with the retrieved transformation parameters is transformed. The transformed message is superimposed on top of the graphical image to create an integrated image. The integrated image is conveyed to the electronic display.

Chan discloses a diagnostic protocol and display system. The diagnostic protocol and display system includes a cable bus output of a computer to a printer which is sensed to select coded error data out of the output stream in order to activate a visual display of coded error data for benefit of a human operator.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine operating in either a normal state or an abnormal state that includes a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device and an abnormality notification device for notifying an abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs thereby placing the gaming machine in the abnormal state. Claim 1 recites that the game result display device has an effect display area portion with the effect display area portion displaying first indicia indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the normal state. Claim 1 recites that, in the abnormal state, the abnormality notification device notifies information concerning with the abnormality in plural times according to stages of restoration work from an abnormal state to a normal state. Further, claim 1 recites that the information concerning the abnormality is displayed in the effect display area portion of the game result display device in a repeating series of information text messages with a subsequent one of the information text messages being at least substantially superimpose knock on d on an immediately preceding information text message such that a first information text message indicates the abnormality has

occurred and a second information text message provides a removal procedure for removing the cause of the abnormality. Furthermore, claim 1 recites that, when the abnormality occurs, the gaming machine shifts from the normal state to the abnormal state and the abnormality notification device causes the effect display area portion of the game result display device to discontinue displaying the first indicia and to display second indicia with the second indicia being different from the first indicia and indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the abnormal state.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggests that the game result display device has an effect display area portion with the effect display area portion displaying first indicia (for example, red donchan 91 in Figures 10-13) indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the normal state and, when the abnormality occurs, the gaming machine shifts from the normal state to the abnormal state and the abnormality notification device causes the effect display area portion of the game result display device to discontinue displaying the first indicia and to display second indicia (for example, green/blue donchan 92 in Figures 10-13) with the second indicia being different from the first indicia and indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the abnormal state. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 15, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine operating in either a normal state or an abnormal state that includes a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device and an abnormality notification device for notifying abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs thereby placing the gaming machine in the abnormal state and an abnormality occurrence history storing device for counting a number of times of the abnormality occurrence and storing information

concerning with the number of times of the abnormality occurrence. Claim 15 recites that the game result display device has an effect display area portion with the effect display area portion displaying first indicia indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the normal state. Claim 15 recites that the abnormality notification device notifies the information in plural times.

Claim 15 further recites that the number of times of the abnormality occurrence is classified into at least a first group and a second group and the first group corresponds to a first notifying mode and the second group corresponds to a second notifying mode. Additionally, claim 15 recites that the abnormality notification device notifies the abnormality through the first notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the first group and notifies the abnormality through the second notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the second group, based on the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device. Additionally, claim 15 recites that, when the abnormality occurs, the gaming machine shifts from the normal state to the abnormal state and the abnormality notification device causes the effect display area portion of the game result display device to discontinue displaying the first indicia and to display second indicia with the second indicia being different from the first indicia and indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the abnormal state.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 15 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that that the game result display device has an effect display area portion with the effect display area portion displaying first indicia (for example, red donchan 91 in Figures 10-13) indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the normal state and that, when the abnormality occurs, the gaming machine shifts from the normal state to the abnormal state and the abnormality notification device causes the effect display area portion of the game result display device to discontinue displaying the first indicia and to display second indicia with the second indicia (for example,

green/blue donchan 92 in Figures 10-13) being different from the first indicia and indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the abnormal state. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and include all of the features of claim 15. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 15 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Quest and Burckhardt and Murray and Chan as applied to above-mentioned claims and further in view of Muir (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Muir teaches a gaming machine display.

As discussed above, claims 1, 3-6 and 15-18 are allowable over Quest, Burckhardt, Murray and Chan. Muir fails to cure the deficiencies of these references and therefore claims 1, 3 -6 and 15-18 are allowable over the combination of these references.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1 and claim 19 depends from claim 15 and includes all of the features of claim 15. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features it recites.

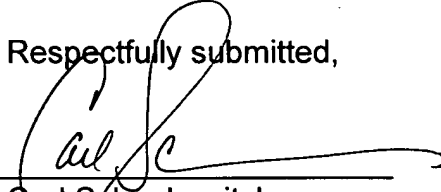
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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